

St. Bartholomew's Church, Otford

Parish Prayer Diary – December 2023

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure. Psalm 122

Please pray and give thanks for:

1. On this first day of Advent, for those working in our Post Office, serving the local community, at this increasingly busy time of year.
2. Those organising the Cheese and Wine Evening, to accompany 'Strictly Come Dancing' – may it be enjoyable for all.
3. **1st Sunday of Advent.** For the gift of music, displayed by the band at the All-Together Service this morning, and by all those at the Advent Carol Service this evening. Also for the residents of Great Till Close and for the work of Sevenoaks Counselling Service.
4. For all members of the PCC as they meet this evening, and also for our village florist Denise as she shares her creative gifts within the community.
5. For charities for the homeless – Crisis, Salvation Army, Centrepoint and Shelter – all offering warmth, comfort, care and hope to those in despair this Christmas.
6. Those suffering from chronic and long-term illness, and for their carers who love and support them during the darkest times.
7. For those involved in the online Zoom Advent Study Course, that they may feel spiritually enriched in preparation for Christmas.
8. For the Tree of Light Service this evening – giving thanks for the staff and volunteers at Hospice in the Weald.
9. For the 'Carols and Cake' event this afternoon, and for all those involved in EPIC this evening – may today be enjoyed by all.
10. **2nd Sunday of Advent.** For all involved in and attending the Choir Christmas Concert this evening. Also for the residents of Greenhill Road and for the work of Hospices of Hope.
11. For the Ministry Team Meeting this evening – giving thanks for Dawn, Mags and Margaret during this time of Vacancy in our church.
12. For all involved in Otford Primary School Carol Service today – may the children learn more about the true meaning of Christmas.
13. As term ends this week for our local schools, we pray that all children and staff will have a well-deserved and enjoyable holiday.
14. For all who attend the Christmas Lunch at the Thursday Lunch Club today, giving thanks for the organizers, cooks and transport providers each week.
15. For those who have lost loved ones this year – may they find comfort and peace as they remember and reflect upon each one of them.

16. For all involved in the 'Carols in the Library' event here in Otford today. May it be a joyful occasion within the community.
17. **3rd Sunday of Advent.** For all involved in this morning's Sunday Club Nativity and YPF Christmas Celebration, and also for the evening's Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight. Also for the residents of Hale Lane and for the work of The Bible Society.
18. For all involved in today's Soup Lunch with Carols, and also CAMEO this afternoon – may today be a time of fellowship and festivity.
19. For all working in the NHS at this time – doctors, nurses, paramedics, and ancillary staff, providing expertise and care to the sick and suffering.
20. For those attending this morning's BCP Communion Service, giving thanks for our visiting clergy over the Christmas period. May the Coffee and Fellowship afterwards provide some extra Christmas Cheer!
21. For our churchwardens Joan and Janet, our welcomers, sidespeople and tech. team as they prepare for the many Christmas services ahead.
22. On the Shortest Day, for the safety of all those people who will be travelling to work or to visit family during the long hours of darkness.
23. For those who serve our country in the Armed Forces, especially those posted overseas and unable to be with their families at this time of year.
24. **4th Sunday of Advent.** On Christmas Eve, for all who attend today's Crib Service and Midnight Communion. May they experience the wonder of Christmas. Also for the residents of the High Street and for the work of Christian Aid.
25. **Christmas Day.** "Hark! The herald-angels sing, Glory to the new-born King." As we join with other Christians worshipping all around the world today, let us pray for Peace on Earth.
26. For all visiting clergy who have enabled and enhanced our Christmas services – may they enjoy some rest and replenishment.
27. For all visitors to Otford over this festive time – may they feel welcome and enjoy the beauty of our village.
28. For all who come to Otford to work in our shops, offices and local businesses, bringing life and purpose into the village.
29. For Clive working in the church office, and for all those who assist in any way to make our church a thriving community.
30. For our Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Government – may they provide thoughtful and clear leadership for our country and the wider world.
31. **1st Sunday of Christmas.** On this New Year's Eve, for ourselves, our family and friends as we look for God's guidance and hope in 2024. Also for the residents of Hillydeal Road and for the work of Arocha.